Holyhead Urban District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

LIBRARY

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area 850 acres.
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, 1937 : 10,020.
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to rate books, 2,856
Rateable value and sum represented by a penny rate. £43,545 — £152 - 1 - 9.1131

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The unemployment figure for the area was reduced as the result of a demand for local seamen to board vessels sailing on a whaling expedition. Municipal work has also given casual employment to quite a number of men who have been unemployed for a considerable period.

VITAL STATISTICS.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	111	63	48	Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population : 11·87.
	Illegitimate	8	7	1	
Still Births	Legitimate	12	6	6	Rate per 1,000 live and still births : 13·37.
	Illegitimate	3	2	1	
	Birth rate for England and Wales ...			14·9.	
Deaths		161	66	95	Death rate per 1,000 of population : 16·06.
	Death rate for England and Wales ...			12·4.	

Deaths from Puerperal Causes	none.
Death Rate of Infants under one year of age	... 4
All Infants per 1,000 live births	33·61
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	33·61
Illegitimate Infants	none.
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	18
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	none.
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	one.
,, ,, Diarrhoea (under two years)	none.

The chief causes of deaths are :—

(1) Heart and other Circulatory diseases	59
(2) Malignant Disease (Cancer)	18
(3) Tuberculosis (all forms)	15
(4) Influenza	12

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

NO CHANGE since my report for 1936.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. Water Supply.

The supply has been adequate throughout the area. During the year, six samples of water were examined bacteriologically. One of these samples proved unsatisfactory and samples were taken at the same point at a later date. These proved satisfactory.

2. Drainage and Sewerage.

A new sewer was laid along the Garreglwyd Road, giving facilities to the houses in that area to dispose of the cesspoool system of drainage.

3. Closet Accommodation.

Some improvement in sanitary accommodation was brought about in several parts of the town as a result of an installation of flushing apparatus in 115 closets.

4. Public Cleansing.

Refuse is collected weekly by private contract. A bi-weekly collection would result in some sanitary improvement in the town, which is so congested. The refuse is burnt at the Incinerator Plant and many complaints have been made concerning the emission of dust and smoke from the burning of the refuse. The Council have decided to discontinue working the plant and it proposed to introduce some new method of refuse disposal.

5. Smoke Abatement.

Complaints regarding the emission of black smoke were received from the neighbourhood of the Laundry premises, and steps were taken to secure abatement of the nuisance, meeting with some success.
There is room for further improvement in the abatement of smoke nuisance from the Railway premises.

6. Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

Disinfestation of household effects from Slum Clearance houses is performed prior to removal into new Council houses. The Council gives facilities for the fumigation of infested premises at a charge of 1/- per room, and those persons whose houses are infested with the bed-bug should avail themselves of these provisions.

SCHOOLS.

All the schools in the Urban District were inspected. Complaints concerning defective sanitary arrangements were reported to the County Authority.

The health generally of the scholars has been good, and there has been comparative freedom from notifiable infectious diseases.

HOUSING.

22 new houses to rehouse persons occupying unfit houses were completed during the year.

1. **Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.**

   (*a*) Total number of houses inspected for housing defects during the year : 44.

   (*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose : 90.

   Number of houses found to be unfit for human habitation : 11 individually unfit houses.

2. **Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal notice** : 42.

   Number of defective houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority : 42.

Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Acts, 1930-1936.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair : nil.
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice
   - (*a*) By owners : none.
   - (*b*) By Local Authority : none.

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts : nil.

Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930—

1. Number of houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made : nil.
2. Number of houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders : nil.

Housing Act, 1930-1936, Slum Clearance.

57 houses were inspected for the purpose of Slum Clearance.

A Public Enquiry was held concerning these premises, the result of which has not yet been received.

4. **Housing Act, 1935, Overcrowding.**

1. Number of houses overcrowded at the end of the year : 76.
2. Number of families dwelling therein : 76.
3. Number of persons dwelling therein : 498.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

A full report is given in the Food and Sanitary Inspector's report.

(*a*) **Milk Supply.**

Cowsheds and Dairies have been inspected regularly during the year.

In cleanliness they have been found consistently satisfactory. My report for the year 1936 referred to the need for alterations in two of the cowsheds, and these have been carried out to our satisfaction.

There is still one cowshed which falls far short of a desirable standard, and this is on notice to close during the year 1938.

Samples have been taken regularly for bacteriological examination, and much improvement has been observed.

Tubercle bacilli were found in the milk supply of two vendors, and the matter was immediately investigated by the Veterinery Surgeon of the County Council. Suspected cows were isolated and those found infected were slaughtered and destroyed.

(*b*) **Meat and Foods.**

A full report will be seen in the Food Inspector's report.

(*c*) **Adulteration.**

Proceedings were instituted in one case of Deficiency of Fat in milk.

(*d*) **Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.**

Samples of various foodstuffs are sent to the Public Analyst.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no epidemic of infectious disease during the year.

There were isolated cases of Diptheria and Scarlet Fever.

No deaths were recorded.

NOTIFICATIONS : 5 cases of Scarlet Fever.
2 cases of Diptheria.
4 cases of Pneumonia.

Hospital accommodation for infectious diseases is not sufficient, as I have previously reported.

During the first three months of the year the district suffered considerably from an epidemic of Influenza of a mild form. There were 12 deaths.

CANCER.

18 deaths were reported.

The age and site of the Growth is as follows :—

Male.		Female.	
Age 75	Colon.	Age 74	Oesophagus.
62	Neck.	32	Colon.
45	Rectum.	65	Ovary.
66	Colon.	54	Uterus.
75	Colon.	49	Stomach.
46	Stomach.	79	Leg and Face.
60	Stomach.	33	Colon.
62	Colon.	66	Stomach.
68	Colon.	74	Breast.

There is a great preference for the alimentary tract.

Prevention of Blindness. No cases were notified.

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Amount of shipping entering the harbour during the year :—

British	508	Aircraft	none
Foreign	22	Naval Vessels	none

Visits of Inspection.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Number of visits :

(a)	Factories	56
(b)	Workshops	57
(c)	Workplaces	44
(d)	Homeworkers	3

TUBERCULOSIS.

18 cases were notified during the year.
There were 15 deaths.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937 :—

Age Periods. Years.	New Cases. Respiratory. M.	F.	New Cases. Non-Respiratory. M.	F.	Deaths. Respiratory. M.	F.	Deaths. Non-Respiratory. M.	F.
1—5	—		—		—		—	
5—15	2			2	—		—	
15—25		4	—			1	—	
25—35	3	3	—		3	3	—	
35—45		2	—		1	1	—	
45—55	1	1	—		1		—	
55—65	—		—			5	—	

Sanitary and Food Inspector's Report for the Year 1937.

Visits of Inspection were as follows :—

Slaughterhouses	265	
Bakeries	77	
Dairies	72	
Cowsheds	72	
Meat Stalls	1,560	
Meat Shops	455	
Food Shops	168	
Factories and Workshops	157	Factories 56, workshops 57, Workplaces 44, outworkers 3.
Housing	147	
Sanitary Accommodation	250	
Water Supply	30	
Nuisances	80	visits to 44 nuisances.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

Slaughterhouses have been kept clean and have been limewashed regularly. One of the slaughterhouses falls short of a desirable standard and has been the cause for complaint by those living in the near neighbourhood. It is situated in a busy centre of the town. Its removal would result in a sanitary improvement.

85 visits were made for the purposes of emergency slaughter.

MEAT SHOPS.

There are 18 meat shops in the town, all of which comply with the requirements of the Meat Regulations (1924). They have been kept clean and supply a good quality of meat.

MEAT STALLS AND VANS.

25 stalls at the Market Place display meat for sale. The majority of market butchers sell a satisfactory quality of meat. A few, however, need constant supervision.

FOOD SHOPS.

The food shops include grocers, fruiterers, sweet shops and fried fish and chip potato shops. All are of a desirable standard since the closing of a few of the older type of fish and chip potato shops, which were closed down during the year.

BAKERIES.

There are 19 bakeries within the Urban District. Each bakehouse was visited several times during the year. Much improvement in the cleanliness was observed in those bakeries of the older type.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Regular visits were made and a satisfactory standard of cleanliness has been maintained in each establishment throughout the year. Structural alterations were effected in two cowsheds in the London Road area. The cowshed situated at the rear of Harp Street falls far short of a desirable standard. Its closure is anticipated during the early part of 1938.

HOUSING.

147 Houses of the working classes were visited during the year.
43 required repairs.
36 for the purposes of "house-to-house inspection."
57 for the purpose of Slum Clearance.
11 to investigate the condition of suspected individually unfit houses.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

250 premises in various parts of the town were visited for the purpose of investigating the condition of the sanitary accommodation. 150 were not provided with proper flushing apparatus, and Formal notices were served requesting this provision within a specified time. Only a small percentage responded to the notices, so the Council deemed it necessary to proceed with the work themselves and recover the costs from the owners responsible for the default.

NUISANCES.

44 nuisances (within the meaning of the P.H. Acts) were reported during the year, and each of them was investigated and remedied.

VERMINOUS PERSONS AND PREMISES.

Application was made at the Courts for the forced removal of a verminous person, and this was effected. Many complaints regarding verminous premises were made, and fumigation by means of Sulphur Dioxide was carried out in 4 cases.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Investigations and thorough disinfections were made in all notified cases of infectious disease. There were no epidemics during the year.

MILK.

83 samples of milk were taken for the following purposes :—

(*a*) Biological Examination (T.B.) : 55.
(These samples were also estimated for fats and solids not fat.)
(*b*) Chemical Analysis : 28.

FOOD.

The following articles of foodstuffs were analysed :—

Butter	15 samples.
Cheese	1 sample.
Pepper	1 ,,
Fruit Jam	1 ,,
Sugar	1 ,,
Sauce	1 ,,

Legal Proceedings were instituted for deficiency of fat in milk.

CONDEMNED FOOD.

The following particulars include food condemned in the town and port :—

Beef	9,133 lbs.
Pork	1,180 ,,
Mutton and Lamb	800 ,,
Plucks	112 ,,
Fruit	26 ,,
Poultry and Rabbits	233 ,,
Fish and Shellfish	465 ,,
Tinned Meat	79 ,,

PORT WORK.

Visits were made to the Port for the purpose of food examination. The food is imported from the Irish Free State and a portion is shipped from Northern Ireland. The food arrives in packages which safeguard against contamination in transit. The quality generally is very satisfactory. Officials of the Railway Company give every facility for the fulfilment of the Food Inspector's duties.

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	520	none	none	2,700	1,560
Number inspected	520	—	—	2,000	1,560
All diseases except tuberculosis —whole carcases condemned	25	—	—	19	8
Percentage of number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis	6%	—	—	——	-
Tuberculosis only—whole carcases condemned ...	3	—	—	——	9
Percentage of inspected affected with T.B.	0·6%	—	—	——	0·6%

(*Signed*) E. R. HUGHES, *M.O.H.*

Surveyor's Dept.

House Scavenging.

102 ashpits were emptied and 1,751 lorry loads of refuse delivered at the Destructor Works, and 569 cart loads from the Llaingoch and Llanfain Districts were delivered at Cerrig-y-lloi fields.

Choked Drains and Sewers.

104 choked drains and 105 choked sewers were attended to.

Inspections.

394 inspections were made of houses in course of erection, and 12 new houses were completed ready for occupation. All drains from these houses were connected to sewers direct.

HOUSING ACT, 1930—SLUM CLEARANCE. RE-HOUSING.

26 houses were completed and occupied.

SEWERAGE AND DRAINAGE (HOUSING SITES).

Site.	No. of Houses.	Pipe Sewers (Yds. Lineal) 6 in.	Junctions.	Manholes.	St. Gullies.
Mill Bank	12	210	24	9	2
Porthyfelin Road	22	243	44	9	—
Kingsland Road	10	158	20	8	2
Porthyfelin Road Improvement ...	—	90	8	2	8

3 Vent Shafts were fixed and 4 Privies converted into W.C.s.